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THE

WHAT IF... THE AVENGERS LOST

OPERATION:
GALACTIC STORM

PART 1 OF 2



DIRECT EDITION

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**WHAT IF
THE AVENGERS
LOST
OPERATION
GALACTIC
STORM?**

• **TOM DE FAL**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THIS IS HOW
IT BEGAN!

JUST AS
THEY DID
IN OUR REALITY,
TWO GREAT
COSMIC
EMPIRES--

-- THE KREE
AND
THE SHI'AR --

-- FOUND
THEMSELVES
MOVING INEXORABLY
TOWARDS
INTERGALACTIC
WAR.

THE FIRST
SKIRMISH OF
THAT BATTLE WAS
TAKE PLACE ON A
SMALL,
RELATIVELY
OBSCURE WORLD
KNOWN AS
EARTH--

-- A WORLD
CHOSEN BY
COSMIC
DESTINY AS
THE CLASH
FOR HEROES.

SPLITTING INTO
THREE GROUPS,
GAV TEAM
REMAINED
TO SAFEGUARD
EARTH--

-- WHILE TWO
SEPARATE ENVOYS
OF AVENGERS
TRAVERSED THE GULF
OF SPACE TO
PLEAD THEIR CASE TO
THE KREE AND
THE SHI'AR.

SADLY, THE KREE
ENVOY FOUND
THAT THE SHI'AR
FELL UPON DEAF
EARS, AND THEY
SENT A HUNTED
CRIMINALSON
THE KREE
THAT NEW WORLD.

-- WHILE CAPTAIN
AMERICA, BERSERK,
THE BLACK KNIGHT,
CRYSTAL AND
HERCULES FOUND
THEMSELVES
CAPTURED AND
BROUGHT BEFORE
THE KREE RULERS
AEL-PAN AND
GAR-BEN.

UNKNOWN TO ALL,
THE SHI'AR AMBASSADOR
KNOWN AS DEATHBIRD
CROUCHED HIDDEN,
POISED TO STRIKE AT
THE TWO IMPERATORS.

IT IS AT THIS
CRITICAL
JUNCTURE THAT
THE TIMELINE OF
THIS UNIVERSE
DIVERGES
FROM THAT
WITH WHICH
WE ARE
FAMILIAR--

-- AS DEATHBIRD'S
PRESENCE IS
DEFECTED BY
CAPTAIN
AMERICA--



--AND REALIZED
WITH HORROR
THEir WOULD-
BEcome SHOULD IT
TAKE PLACE.

TO AVERT THAT
CATASTROPHE,
THEY VOWED TO
BRING ABOUT A
PEACE BETWEEN
THE TWO EMPIRES

ONE SUCH BAND OF
ADVENTURERS, CALLED
THE AVENGERS,
LEARNED OF
THE NASCENT WAR--

SHORTLY
THEREAFTER,
THEIR RANKS
EXPANDED
AGAIN, AS
THAT TEAM
DISAGREED
OVER THEIR
NEXT COURSE
OF ACTION.

THE ARMORED
AVENGER
IRON MAN AND
THE SIZE-CHANGING
GOLIATH SOUGHT
TO STRIKE BACK
AT THE REE AND
CRIPPLE THEIR
ABILITY TO
MAKE WAR--

TRASHCANEROUS
SHARSCUM!

DIE!

NO!

--WHOSE
LIGHTNING
REFLECTS
ALLOW HIM TO
PREVENT
THAT
ASSASSINATION!









WITH THAT ONE SHORT
WORD, AEL-DAN SIGNS
THE DEATH WARRANTS
OF FIVE MILLION
SOULS--

--UNLEASHING A FORCE
SO UNTHINKABLE
THAT GENERATIONS OF
KREB HAVE RECOILED IN
HORROR FROM ITS USE.

COSMIC LIGHTNING
HURTLES THROUGH
A SUB-SPACE DOMAIN,
ARRIVING AT ITS
TARGET WITH NEARLY
INSTANTANEOUS
SPEED.

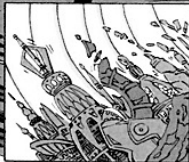
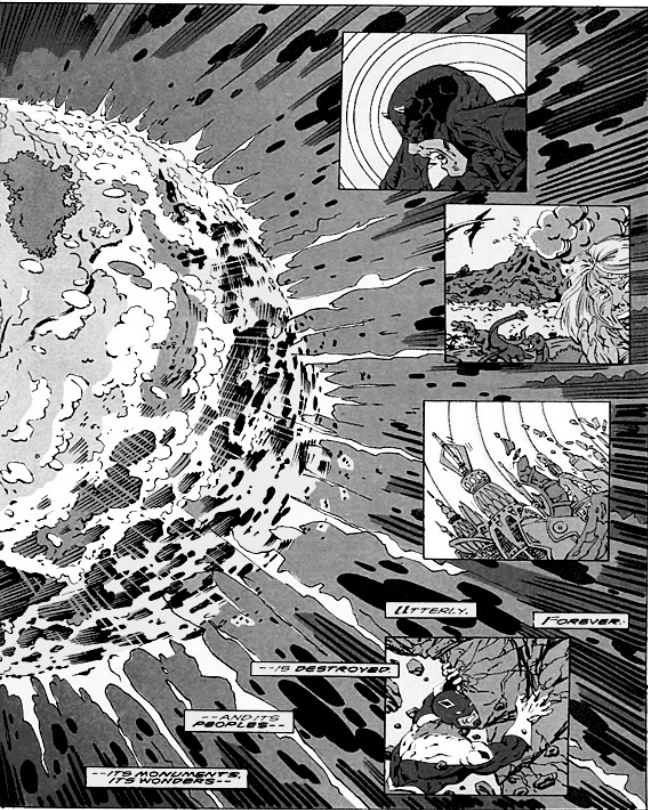


WITHIN SECONDS,
THE ENTIRE SURFACE OF
THE EARTH IS CONSUMED
BY FLAMES
FOUR BILLION DEGREES
HOTTER THAN THE SURFACE
OF THE SUN.



THE HOLOCAUST
IS TOTAL.

EVERYTHING THAT
IS, WAS OR WOULD
HAVE BEEN
OF EARTH--



UTTERLY.

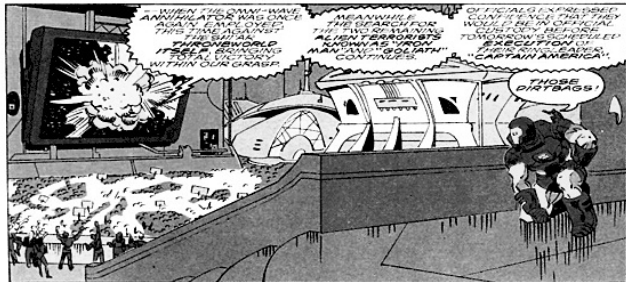
FOREVER.

--IS DESTROYED--

--AND ITS
PEOPLES--

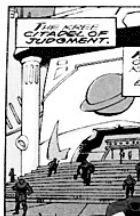
--ITS MONUMENTS
ITS WONDERS--











HEADQUARTERS
OF THE CREATED
KREE ACCUSERS,
ARBITERS AND
ENFORCERS OF
KREE LAW.











STRANGE.

CHEATING
DEATH IS A GAME
I'VE PLAYED FOR
SO LONG, I'D HAVE
NEVER GUESSED
GETTING TO
THE END OF IT--



-- WOULD FEEL
SO MUCH LIKE
LAYING ASIDE
A BURDEN.

SO MUCH
BETTER TO
GO THERE
THIS WAY--



-- THAN IN
SOME
BLASTED
HOSPITAL
BED.



I ALWAYS
WANTED
TO GO OUT
WITH A--

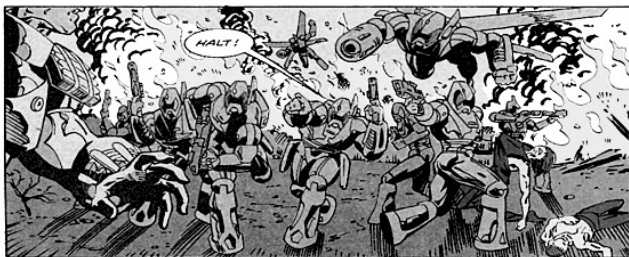




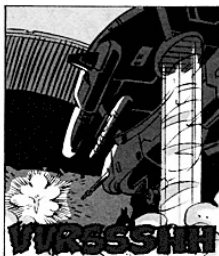


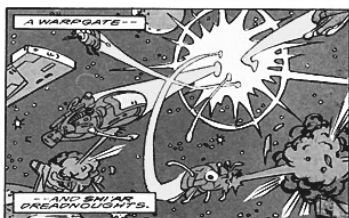
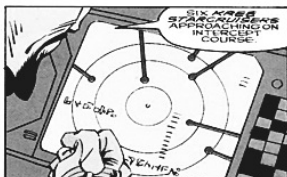


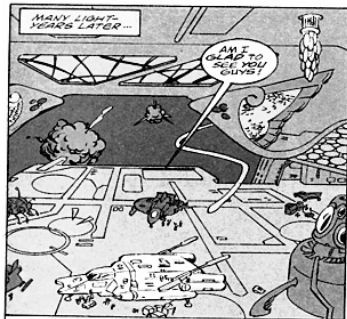


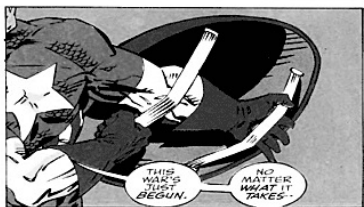














--THE
KREE EMPIRE
IS COMING
DOWN!

NEXT:
BLITZKRIEG!

BLITZKRIEG: RAUER
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